

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PGOV, PINS, WB
SUBJECT: BERLIN UNIVERSITY STRIKE GETS UNDERWAY

REF: USBERLIN 2957

SUMMARY. DURING WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 28, UNIVERSITY STRIKE
IN BERLIN GOT UNDERWAY IN EARNEST. STUDENTS ARE STAYING AWAY
FROM CLASS IN DROVES, BUT VIOLENT INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN FEW AND
FAR BETWEEN. END SUMMARY.

1. CORRESPONDING TO FRG-WIDE TWO-WEEK UNIVERSITY STRIKE,
MOST UNIVERSITIES IN WEST BERLIN WERE STRUCK BY STUDENTS
STARTING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28, BUT EFFECT AT DIFFERENT SCHOOLS
HAS VARIED CONSIDERABLY. AT FREE UNIVERSITY, LARGE NUMBERS OF
STUDENTS HAVE STAYED HOME, BUT SITUATION HAS REMAINED RELATIVELY
PEACEFUL. ONE EXCEPTION: AFTER STUDENTS HAD BARRICADED
LECTURE HALLS AT ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, FREE UNIVERSITY PRESI-
DENT LAEMMERT ORDERED A TWO-DAY LOCKOUT (DECEMBER 1 AND 2)
THERE. AT TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND THE TEACHERS' COLLEGE,
"STRIKE POSTS" WERE MANNED BY STUDENTS AT ENTRANCES TO
BUILDINGS AND HINDERED THE PASSAGE OF STUDENTS WANTING TO
ATTEND CLASSED IN SEVEN OF TWENTY-ONE DEPARTMENTS, THOUGH NO
VIOLENCE. FEW STUDENTS CAME TO CLASS AT EITHER THE TECHNICAL
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UNIVERSITY OR TEACHERS' COLLEGE. OTHER SMALLER INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER LEARNING HAVE GENERALLY ALSO BEEN STRUCK WITH VARYING
DEGREES OF SUCCESS.

2. ON NOVEMBER 29, A PLANNED TALK BY CDU CHAIRMAN HELMUT
KOHL AT TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY'S MAIN AUDITORIUM WAS MOVED TO
ANOTHER NEARBY BUILDING AT THE LAST MINUTE BECAUSE THE MAIN

AUDITORIUM HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY LEFTIST STUDENTS WHO, TERMING HIS APPEARANCE "BLACK THEATER," APPARENTLY INTENDED TO GREET KOHL WITH CONFETTI, STREAMERS, AND STRIKE SONGS. THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS, HOWEVER, DECIDED TO IGNORE HIS VISIT, CONDEMNING IT AS AN INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION DESIGNED TO CAUSE DISTURBANCES WHICH WOULD PROVE THE THESIS THAT NO RATIONAL DISCUSSIONS COULD BE HELD AT THE UNIVERSITIES. AT THE NEW LECTURE SITE, HEAVILY GUARDED BY POLICE, WHO CHECKED ALL PERSONS ENTERING (AS DID CDU STUDENT ASSOCIATION AND JUNGHEIM UNION MEMBERS PRESENT), KOHL'S REMARKS WERE MET BY HEAVY CLASHES OF APPLAUSE AND BOOS. ABOUT 300 LEFTISTS WALKED OUT OF THE LECTURE, AFTER WHICH IT PROCEEDED IN A MORE OBJECTIVE ATMOSPHERE, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORTS.

3. IN HIS SPEECH, KOHL CRITICIZED THE "FAILED EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY" OF THE SPD-FDP COALITION WHICH HAD "DRAMATICALLY WORSENERED THE OCCUPATIONAL CHANCES OF THE YOUNG GENERATION" AS WELL AS TOO MUCH "ACADEMIZATION" OF OCCUPATIONS TO THE NEGLECT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING. KOHL SUGGESTED THAT IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM, LECTURES WERE DISRUPTED AND "BRUTAL PHYSICAL TERROR" EXERCISED. NEVERTHELESS, THE CURRENT UNIVERSITY BOYCOTT SHOWED, IN HIS VIEW, THAT THE NUMBER OF "SILENT STUDENTS" WHO HAD GRASPED THE IDEA THAT THE ISSUE WAS THEIR OWN PERSONAL FREEDOM WAS GROWING. KOHL SAW GOOD PROSPECTS THAT IN MANY UNIVERSITIES, ALSO IN BERLIN, "THE SENSIBLE ONES" WOULD CARRY THE DAY. TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESIDENT BERGER CRITICIZED KOHL AT THE SAME MEETING FOR ATTACKING BERLIN'S UNIVERSITIES BEFORE HE HAD DISCUSSED THEIR PROBLEMS ON THE SPOT AND FOR DRAWING A CONNECTION BETWEEN UNIVERSITIES AND TERRORISM. BERGER OBSERVED THAT HISTORICALLY IN GERMANY, THE DANGER ALWAYS CAME FROM THE RIGHT, NOT THE LEFT.

4. SENATOR FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH PETER GLOTZ HAS BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE IN GETTING OUT TO TALK WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, MORE THAN TWENTY TIMES IN RECENT WEEKS. IN AN ARTICLE WRITTEN FOR SPD ORGAN "BERLIN STIMME," GLOTZ POINTED OUT THE IMPORTANCE OF UNIVERSITY DISCUSSIONS WHICH SO FAR HAD BEEN "EXCITED, SOMETIMES CHAOTIC, BUT ALMOST ALWAYS PEACEFUL." MILITANT ACTIONS HAD BEEN THE EXCEPTION, AND IN BERLIN THE STRIKE HAD BEEN LESS VIOLENT AND MORE CONTROLLED THAN IN THE FRG, GLOTZ WROTE. TO BE SURE, HE ADDED, IT WAS ILLEGAL FOR STUDENTS TO SHOUT IN FRONT OF KOHL'S PODIUM AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (AS THEY HAD DONE), BUT IT WAS A FALSIFICATION TO SAY ONE COULD NOT DISCUSS THINGS AT THE UNIVERSITY. THE CDU WAS SUFFERING FROM A CLASSICAL ERROR, GLOTZ REMARKED. ITS LEADERS DID NOT SPEAK "WITH" THE UNIVERSITIES, BUT "ABOUT" THEM WITH THEIR

OWN FOLLOWETS.

5. SENAT'S EFFORTS AT MODERATION AND RATIONALITY IN HANDLING UNIVERSITY STRIKE HAS NOT MET WITH TOTAL ACCEPTANCE. CHARLOTTENBURG DISTRICT MAYOR LEGIEN (CDU), WHO CALLED THE TREATMENT OF KOHL AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY "SHAMEFUL AND OUTRAGEOUS," SAID THAT APPEALS FOR MORE DISCUSSIONS ARE A MOCKERY WHEN THE LEFT EXTREMISTS AGAINST WHOM THE SECURITY OF SUCH MEETINGS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED HAVE THE UPPER HAND. A CONSERVATIVE GROUP HAS COMPLAINED THAT DISRUPTIONS OF A PHYSICS CLASS AT THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY HAD OCCURED REPEATEDLY AND THE POLICE, ALTHOUGH CALLED, DID NOT COME. ON THE OTHER HAD, TECHINICAL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT BERGER AUTHORIZED A COMPLAINT AGAINST A BERLIN POLICEMAN IN CIVILIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLOTHES WHO ALLEGEDLY PULLED A STUDENT OUT OF THE KOHL LECTURE AND BLOODIED HIS NOSE. A UNIFORMED POLICEMAN STANDING BY WAS REQUESTED BY BERGER AT THE TIME TO STOP THE VIOLENCE, BUT HE DID NOT; THE ALTERCATION CONTINUED UNTIL THE POLICE UNIT LEADER CAME OVER. GEORGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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